ENVELOPE SERIES

VOLUME LIV SPRING, 1951 NUMBER 1

BEST BOOKS for 1951-1952

Mexico -- Latin America

Churches For Our Country's Needs

A Play

THE DOCTOR AND THE SHEIKH

By Gertrude Warner

PACIFIC SCHOOL

AMERICAN BOARD of COMMISSIONERS for FOREIGN MISSIONS 14 Beacon St. Boston

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ENVELOPE SERIES

Issued by

The Committee on Missionary Education and Stewardship of the Missions Council of Congregational Christian Churches

Editors: Ruth Isabel Seabury, *Educational Secretary*

Alexander Ferguson, *Director of Visual Aids Department*

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By Gertrude Warner

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READER:

I was lucky enough to be in on a conference a few weeks ago where representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, returned from Europe and from the UN, told us pretty plainly that we ought to tell our church people that *America* is the most feared and distrusted nation in the world today! To most of our people that seems incredible, even while we are looking at Costello on the TV or reading of American diplomatic indecision in Washington, or Geneva, or Paris. Then a representative from the World Council of Churches tells us, and again pretty plainly, that the Christians in Europe are not nearly as terrified as the Christians in the United States—that after all the misery and suffering of the last many years their trust is still in God and their hope in Jesus Christ the Lord, the risen Redeemer. They are praying for us!

In a recent statement by Bishop Newbigin, an extraordinary leader in the South India United Church, are these thought-provoking words:

"Our fundamental need, of course, is spiritual renewal. That is something which we cannot ourselves produce. We have to pray for it, believe that it is possible, and hold ourselves ready to receive it, whatever the cost. 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Nicodemus was a practical Church man like us, and he wanted a practical programme. But 'the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound therefore but knowest not whence it cometh or whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.' We have seen Churches in other parts of the world going through a real rebirth in ways that could not have been predicted—chiefly through being ready to face honestly situations that looked like the final disaster. It is fairly certain that God's most important word to us will sound in our greatest difficulties. We must wrest God's secret out of our difficulties. I believe that one thing can be said about the spiritual renewal of the Church: Wherever it has happened in recent years, it has come through the *rediscovery of the local unit of the Church*—the congregation. The *Church meeting,* at which all the members in one place

meet together for dealing practically with their Christian duty to the neighborhood, *has played a vital part in these renewals."*

It is well that we should begin to plan now for self-examination in our churches in America, *by our own churches* indeed. It is well that the Interdenominational Committee, which has for years helped us to think of the mission of the church, has this year chosen on the Home Missions side the subject "Churches for our Country's Needs."* It is well, too, that Truman Douglass of our own Board of Home Missions has been chosen to write the major book in that field. If we take him seriously and dig deep into the purposes and mission of our own congregations in Boston, or Buffalo, or Berkeley, the First Church of Oak Park or the only church in Oakville, he may be able to help us make a fresh start toward a more significant Christianity in these times.

George Howard, author of "We Americans—North & South"* quotes Turgenev, the Russian writer, as having said: "Europe I often think of as a large, dimly lighted temple, richly and magnificently decorated, but with the dusk hovering beneath its arched ceilings. America presents itself to my thoughts as a vast, fertile prairie, at first sight somewhat barren but with a glorious dawn breaking on its horizon." To most Americans of the USA, this quotation has little meaning. When they think or speak of the Western World they mean Europe, the United States, and Canada. Almost never do they include South America in their thought as one with them in a new generation and a new world. I have often been asked in Asia, and even in Europe: "Oh, you are from America. I have a friend there, I wonder if you know her, she lives in Brazil" (or Argentina, or Peru, or wherever). Today that word "American" implies, or should, a more and more common partnership between us and the people of South America. There are some excellent examples of international good will, some good samples of democ-

* See page 13.

racy. As Mr. Howard says: "South America is the real melting pot of the Western Hemisphere. In this vast crucible, all the world's races—white, black and yellow, and Indian, are being welded into a new people, vigorous, progressive and promising. The peoples of that continent are Americans, eager for the best forms of democracy and anxious to make of the two Americas a new world in every sense."

It is time, too, that we in the *churches* of North America realized the great achievement and the tremendous hope of the *Protestant movement in South America.* How many of us realize, for example, that according to good Roman Catholic authorities only 10% of the people of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Colombia fulfill the minimum requirements of Catholicism, that in almost every Latin American land except Mexico the masses of the people have departed from the church. In the last census of Brazil only 49% even *listed* themselves as Roman Catholics. There are some two million Protestants in Latin America but their influence goes even beyond their numbers. In the one country of Brazil 25,000 declared themselves to be Methodists. Beyond this stands the record of hospitals, clinics, fine publishing houses, mission farms, 152 high schools, and the first Continent-wide campaign against illiteracy—all under Protestant auspices.

We Congregational Christians are involved in the total Latin American picture chiefly through the ecumenical organizations to which we belong, The World Council of Churches, the World Council of Christian Education, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. *Our particular responsibility,* given to us ever since the first days of interdenominational coöperation, *is for the Protestants on the West Coast of Mexico.* Here are our brother church members. What they can do for us, and what we can do for them, it is our business to understand. It is our hope, therefore, that in every church some group will take very seriously the study for this year and read with

care and practical application the material here outlined from pages 18 to 21.

Of course Latin America is not without Social Action significance for us. In the field of International Relations, the Good Neighbor Policy of the U.S. has become an imperative and Christians need to understand it and support it. We believe it would be just the time to include a program for our churches and women's organizations on that phase of our contact with South America. We are, therefore, asking Rev. Herman Reissig, the Secretary for International Relations of the Council for Social Action, to prepare or secure for us material that can be used for such a program. We hope it will appear in the *Summer or Fall issue. Plan for it* as you outline and plan programs.

In every church there should be a Committee on Our Christian World Mission. This committee should see to it that every year some thrilling, illuminating, distinctive and important presentation of the Church's Mission be made to the church, *to the whole church.* For this reason we have suggested here and there a Church Night Supper, a Missionary Exhibition or Institute. There are splendid supplementary materials—movies, slides, maps to be illustrated. These ought to be used in careful study by some one group in the church, a group which will present not merely interesting atmosphere but the pertinent Christian information and the relevance of it to Our Christian World Mission. (See page 8.)

To most people there is no life or color or compelling excitement to Our Mission—it is often presented only in terms of "funds and generalities." It needs to be brought down to human beings with whom we can feel the kinship of Christ's people. This year we have even suggested that someone might go from *your* church to visit the churches of Mexico, come back with that first-hand thinking that will make it all so different. It is our hope, too, that the Home Mission Study may bring to being the deepest possible concern by our local congregations for

the needs of our American people in our own town and in our own land. As Dr. Douglass puts it, "As Christians we have to be concerned about the state of the Church. . . . Is it any of your business when a down-town church closes at just the moment that its services are most needed or is compelled to limit its ministry for want of support? . . . Are you in any sense involved when the church declines qualitatively as well as in numbers and resources—when its testimony grows pallid, its friendship cold, its worship spiritless?" Make it the concern of all our people this year.

One more special program we hope you will have in mind—this is the 100th anniversary of the founding of our Micronesian Mission (the mission to the South Sea Islands). We would like to have a *100th Birthday Celebration,* at least one in every church during the period after January, 1952. We shall prepare suggestions for this and include them in a later issue of ENVELOPE SERIES. *Make a place for this program in your church year.*

Several years ago a thoughtful Christian pastor from Central America, Martin Rodriguez, spoke to a group of us in the U.S. from his very heart, and touched us deeply when he said, "I have discovered that it is possible both in Evangelical and in Roman Catholic churches to have a crucifix without Christ, saints with no holiness, candles and no light."

In this Holy Week of 1951 I am thinking of *our Lights.* It will be more than one year's study but let us begin to think more deeply about the candles upon our church's Communion table —do they light merely a beautiful chancel or do they give out that True Light which "lighteth every man" and which will send our people, dedicated, into all the world.

RUTH ISABEL SEABURY

Boston, Massachusetts
March 21, 1951

A WORD TO LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS

In planning your program for 1951-1952, you have no doubt been thinking of all possible ways in which you can make the people of your local church more enthusiastic about, and more responsive to, Our Christian World Mission. You yourself have come to feel, as some of you have repeatedly said, that this is the very heart of the church's life and witness but you find on every hand old, conventional ways of thinking about missions as something a long way off, or something to be done when there is extra money, or as the responsibility of the particularly pious. You are confronted everywhere with lack of vision, with fear of the future, with anxiety about how the church's coal bill can be paid. The other day one of our leaders made the comment: "All it takes to produce a missionary-minded church is one person to whom it is a vital, primary concern." The statement was challenged by one who said, "Let's make it three persons." Three persons! How many have you on your committee? Could they be the yeast, out of which a new spirit might come to the church? We suggest the following steps for this year:

1. Call a meeting of the Committee on Our Christian World Mission, if possible before summer.
2. Invite the pastor to meet with you. (According to the 12 Point Standard "a missionary-minded pastor is essential to a missionary-minded church.") Get him to speak from the heart on what it is he thinks handicaps your church in its development of a real sense of mission.
3. At that meeting, or at the next one, which should be within a month, let your committee study the *12 Point Standard for Missions in the Local Church*. (See page 10.) Ask yourself regarding each of the 12 Points, "What could we do as a committee to help make this possible?"
4. Note especially Point 12. It would be wonderful if your committee could sponsor special training for one or two of the leaders of the church at a conference such as Silver Bay or Northfield or Asilomar where they can get first-hand and truly educational training on the

books and materials of the year which will qualify them to be speakers and teachers for this year in organizations of your church. Let your committee raise the funds in some special project to send them, then it will be in a position to request of them time and attention on their return.

(Write to the Missions Council Office in Boston for further information about the Missionary Education Conferences.)

5. Concentrate before summer on Points 4, 5, and 6 to see how you can make the best possible use of the materials for this year as described in this issue of ENVELOPE SERIES.
6. One thing you certainly can do—let each member of the committee read a group of the books, especially the six played up at the center of this issue of the magazine. Plan for the right kind of review, recommendation and promotion of these books before the organizations and committees of your church.
7. Consider with the pastor the possibility of a Study-Group or a Coffee Hour, or a Week Night Institute which will really give to those willing to think, something worth while in relation to the mission of the church. See Twelve Point Standard and pp. 12 and 13 herein.

FOOD FOR INDIA

A Memo from our India Secretary

There is an urgent need *now* for church groups to stir up enthusiasm anew for getting food to India's starving people. The humanitarian issues involved must not be lost sight of. India is in desperate need and we seem to be the only country that can render aid, since we *have* the surpluses.

Under date of March 19 Rev. Russell Stevenson, Secretary of the India Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions of the N.C.C.C. USA in which we Congregational Christians coöperate, summarizes the situation as follows:

1. On December 16, 1950, the Government of India made a formal request, through its Ambassador in Washington, to the United States Government to supply India with 2,000,000 tons of grain, because of a serious shortage occasioned by the natural calamities which have struck India.

2. On February 12, 1951, President Truman sent a Resolution to Con-

gress in which he urged that immediate action be taken to meet India's request.

3. On February 15, 1951, bills were introduced in both Houses of Congress recommending such action as the President had requested. (Senate Bill 872; House Bill 3017.)

4. Actions were taken in support of this legislation by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., by numerous denominational bodies throughout America, and by many other groups interested in the welfare of India. Through the radio, the press, and through personal letters strong support was evidenced. After hearings, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted in favor of the Bill and sent it on to the House Rules Committee to be reported out for the final vote.

The Bill has bogged down in the Committee on Rules! Meanwhile, a minority group headed by John Vorys, of Ohio, has been building up opposition. In the interests of the Bill, I went to Washington last week and was amazed at the situation. The Wheat for India legislation has become nothing more than a political football. We hope that you will do all you can to bring a renewed pressure upon our Congressmen in Washington. They must be made to see the real issues involved and stop putting politics above hunger and human need. *We may write to:* President Harry S. Truman; Adolph J. Sabath, Chairman House Rules Committee; Tom Connolly, Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Committee; our Senators and Representatives.

RAYMOND A. DUDLEY

March 23, 1951

Have you secured your copy?
TWELVE POINT STANDARD
for missions in the Local Church.
This is the textbook for the Local Church committee on
Our Christian World Mission.
Free for 1 copy per church.
Additional copies 15 cents each.

A CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

For the Japan International Christian University

The Warren Congregational Church in Cumberland Mills, Maine, is putting on a unique celebration to raise the "quota" asked of it for the Japan International Christian University. This tremendously needed university for Japan, which will express so completely our international Christian fellowship, has captured the imagination of Clarence Clark, the pastor, and his people. Already they have given half of their desired goal, and they hope to secure the rest at the Cherry Blossom Festival May 11. It will be fun, too. And educational! There will be:

A Japanese Tea House

A Drama Showing Japan's need for I.C.U.

Special Japanese Music, Dancing and Poetry

A Japanese Guest Student from the Teachers' College not too far away

Wondrous Exhibits of all Kinds, some borrowed from the American Board, some contributed by the congregation

A Story Teller, a Pantomime of Boys Festival, a Skit

And everywhere young people in Japanese costumes.

As for atmosphere! "Plenty of it," so Mr. Clark says. It will all be climaxed by a brief religious service of Dedication.

Let's make a Cherry Blossom Festival in other spots, too, for so good a cause as the Japan International Christian University.

By the way, it is hoped that many offerings will be taken in our churches for J.I.C.U. during the week between the Emperor's birthday, April 29, and Sunday, May 6; but if Cherry Blossom Festivals in May and even Wisteria Festivals in June are needed to secure the money, the exact week and the exact date will not matter. *The University must not be allowed to fail.*

TWO BEST BOOKS

Truman Douglass Gives the Modern Strategy for Home Missions Today

Mission to America, by Truman B. Douglass

Here is the major book on the theme "Churches for Our Country's Needs." In asking Dr. Douglass of our Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions to write this book, the interdenominational publishers expected not a popular treatment but a careful analysis of what the Protestant Church faces today in the confusion, disorder, moral corruption, panic, and poverty of America. Dr. Douglass feels that it is not enough any more to be "filling our minds with new information." What we have to do is *"make up our minds"* about the work the Church must do. He believes also that Protestantism in this country is moving toward a decisive moment of destiny. "If it leans to one side it will slip into ineffectualness, sterility, and a very long period of adversity and eclipse. If it should incline to the other direction it may receive the vitality and strength that have always been given when the church has known its mission and has been about it." He pleads for a rediscovery of the Church as a factor in American life and a vocation for Christians.

Pastors will find much material in this book. It will make a splendid study for the church council or church committee. Taken with the guide prepared by Mabel Sheibley (50 cents) it will prove a good text for study classes or midweek meetings.

Order of Pilgrim Press Price—cloth, $2.00; paper, $1.25

FOR STUDY AND SERMONS

A Famous All-American Presents The Protestant Witness in Latin America

We Americans: North and South, by George P. Howard

Most of us have read at least one book on South America. We have studied the history of the conquistadores in our history classes and absorbed an article on the Good Neighbor Policy. *This book is different.* It presents facts most of us do not know and interprets them with surprising strength. Dr. Howard makes us see our neighbors of Latin America not so much as Latins and revolutionaries, but as modern, vigorous Americans who furnished four presidents for the League of Nations and today exert a definite influence in the United Nations, in which they form a one-third representation. He presents detailed pictures of only two sample Latin American nations—Brazil and Mexico.

The most surprising part of the book comes in the amazing description of Protestantism, its strength and its opportunity. Yet he does not let us off easily. "Latin Americans are weary of strife, rancor, and selfishness. They long for a new moral world, a world of goodness and decency. . . . Christ is the door to a kingdom of kindness and human solidarity. *But it is we who, in our daily contacts with people, hold the keys.*"

The pastor will find here material for a series of weeknight meetings or for the study class. The Missionary Education Committee and the Social Action Committee might combine in a study of relationships between Americans North and South, dramatizing the study by the use of visual aids. (See page 20.)

Price—cloth, $2.00; paper, $1.25

TWO BEST BOOKS

Here is Something Entirely New in Home Missions

NOW! Everybody Needs a Church, edited by Mary Margaret Brace and Lucy M. Eldredge.

Do you know the magazine *Coronet* and its type? This home mission special feature number is done a la *Coronet!* A score of writers have given us shorts, provocative articles, and personality bits related to our theme "Churches for Our Country's Needs." The whole magazine of 128 pages is illustrated with delightful pen-and-ink sketches, and in the center is an eight-page pictorial insert of photographs. This is as full of timely interest as any news magazine, and can be used in a hundred ways according to your imagination. Its primary audience is supposed to be the young people of the church, but it will be equally absorbing to adults and should make a splendid program for women.

Have it on as many home tables as possible as reading material. Let the missionary committee buy copies for circulation.

For a church night supper make large posters giving some of the special shorts in the magazine, such as the quiz on "Missions a Hundred Years Ago" or "Wanted: Home Mission Workers." Get some artist to enlarge some of the sketches and use them to illustrate such items as "This Is the Church and This Is the Steeple." At any program meeting have ten or a dozen of the articles presented in review.

Some of them could even be dramatized. The magazine itself carries guidance as to how it can best be used for young people.

Price—35 cents

FOR PROGRAM USE

Don't You Want to Go to Mexico? Seriously We Mean It!

Invitation to Mexico, by Wesley Matzigkeit

Here is a most unusual travel guide which can be taken by automobile, by air, by rail, or by armchair, as the case may be! Wesley Matzigkeit knows Mexico well and believes that many more Americans could visit that country during our Latin America study! They need to know what they should see and how to interpret it. This he has tried to give them in the book.

In very brief compass we have here some facts about Mexico, a thumbnail picture of Mexico's history, the story of the Protestant Church in Mexico, the detail of the work of that church which we could see on our visit, a directory of principal Protestant churches and institutions, addresses to which one may write in order to make appointments to see them, routes, distances, and the following seven complete tours:

Pan American Highway from Laredo to Mexico City,
Mexico City Highway from El Paso to Toluca,
West Coast route from Nogales to Toluca,
Reynosa to Torreon,
Detailed tour of Mexico City and its environs,
Mexico City to Acapulco,
Mexico City to Puebla.

We suggest using the "Tours" as programs. Supplemented with the sketches in Miss Lee's book (see page 17) and with the biography of Alberto Rembao (see page 17) it would make a rich series. See also the *Guide for Youth Groups* by Mary Garland Taylor (Price, 50 cents). Paper only, price—50 cents

Home Mission Novels You Won't Put Down

So Sure of Life, by Violet Wood. A Mountain Doctor's Story

This we would like to get into every Congregational Christian home, and certainly into every church. We advertised this book when it first came out, for it was published in late 1950, but it fits any theme and any year. The sketches by Oliver Grimley make a real gift book of this life of Robert Thomas of Tennessee. Violet Wood has already given us many books. To do this one, she went down to Pittman Center to get firsthand the impressions of the "Mountain Doctor."

"Beyond the edge of a cornpatch, the dead stalks rustling in the chill November wind, Thomas saw a dimly lit cabin ahead. Men and women crowded in and around the porch. . . . Inside the one-room cabin Thomas looked around in the flickering light. Surely, oh God, this is the painting of a dream. Three beds. A table cluttered with food, dirty dishes and pots, and several boxes of snuff. By the sound of agony he found his patient, lying on a bed that had no sheets. The blankets that covered her were threadbare and stained. Not eight hundred miles in space, but a hundred years in time from the aseptic delivery room, the capable nurses, and the sterile equipment of the delivery room he had known at the Binghamton City Hospital. . . ."

Read the miracle of that child-birth and the doctor who worked for God. Price—cloth, $2.50; paper, $1.25

The Third Wish, by Eleanor Hull

This novelette is for the Junior High School age and it is *distinctly* a youth book, but parents and teachers baffled by their own "junior highs" will enjoy its keen emotional insights and find it a good basis for discussion with their young people.

Price—cloth, $2.00; paper, $1.25

TO READ AND TELL

Protestant "Greats" in Latin America

He Wears Orchids, by Elizabeth Meredith Lee

Here are nineteen stories of real Latin Americans, Protestant leaders whom we want to know. Miss Lee is a secretary of a mission board but spent the larger portion of her life as a missionary in South America. The artist is Puerto Rican-born and the flavor of the whole book is authentic Latin America. The titles will indicate some of the fascination of it: Cupid Wins a Convert, Leper's Angel, Money under His Pillow.

This book was written primarily for adults but will be interesting to young people as well and will be "tellable" to all ages. The biographies will make excellent material for programs and devotions, especially when retold by those who tell stories well.

Price—cloth, $2.50; paper, $1.25

Horseman of the Lord, by Alberto Rembao

This and the following item are in the series of Frontier Books. In this one, Alberto Rembao, who lives in New York and is the editor of the magazine *The New Democracy* (La Nueva Democracia), tells the story of the beloved missionary of his boyhood in Mexico, "Don Alfredo." Alfred Clarence Wright was one of our own American Board missionaries to Mexico—in fact, practically the pioneer of our Mexico mission. This story is told with the intimacy of a great affection. Price—20 cents

A Citizen of the Americas, by Lula Thomas Holmes

Life and adventures of Dr. Hugh C. Tucker, veteran missionary to Brazil. Price—20 cents

PRESENTING OUR OWN WORK

Each year we follow the interdenominational themes of study, but try carefully to relate to these general themes our own Congregational Christian work so that we may see not only the church ecumenical but our personal responsibility, for part at least of it, in the church local. This year several of the writers of these interdenominational books are from our own membership and therefore speak for us too through the whole book, in spirit at least. But in order that we may know specifically the work of our own Boards, Ione Catton and Armstrong Hunter have prepared pamphlet material for our "home" and "foreign" study.

Our Churches at Work in a Fellowship of Service

A brief glimpse of our total denominational program, useful for distribution at church dinners and annual meetings where the budget is dealt with, and to be put in the hands of new members. Prepared at the request of the Women's Fellowship. A six-page flyer. Single copy free. Slight charge for quantity.

In the United States

Mission to America, compiled by Ione Catton

A composite story in the words of many of the leaders of our denomination, told in letters and reports. Miss Catton, wishing to tie the book by our Dr. Douglass with the pamphlet dealing with the work of the Board of Home Missions, has used the very same name as that chosen by Dr. Douglass, *Mission to America.* This may seem a little confusing to people wishing to order, but if care is taken in indicating price there need be no conflict between pamphlet and book. Our country, according to Miss Catton's topics, needs better human relations, better trained Christian leaders, more adequate church buildings, broader community interest and concern on the part of Christians.

The most unique feature of the brochure is a roll-call of States. The tiny map of each State in the margin is accompanied by an account of some special unique witness on which the Congregational Christian church members of that State have been concentrating. They run all the way from Southern California's D.P. family program through the Washington churches' waiting room for Juvenile Court delinquents (with their "shoe fund" for truants from school) to the Youth Caravans of Vermont. A separate section, equally well dotted with small maps, deals with the outskirts of our American parish—Alaska, the Canal Zone, the Hawaiian Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Prepare a good program based on the roll-call or some part of it, with the maps enlarged to poster size and individuals selected to give in their own words the most distinctive and significant stories of our Congregational Christian witness.

Price—30 cents

Make Your Trip Worthwhile

An itinerary for those traveling in America (South especially) showing centers of home missions in the United States.

(Free)

In Latin America

Here our Congregational Christian special responsibility is in Mexico (see pages 5 and 6).

Report on Mexico, compiled by Armstrong Hunter

A description of our work and workers there, from letters and reports supplemented by a first hand story from a California pastor who visited Mexico, and by an article on the history of the Mexico Mission by the Librarian of the American Board, Miss Walker. Some fine pictures illustrate the material.

A study group using the books on page 14 may well use one session on our own work. This pamphlet may also be used, how-

ever, at a Church Night Dinner or an evening weeknight meeting in which various members take the responsibility for presenting portions of the report. Color and interest may be added by decorations, costumes, atmosphere, visual aids.

Price—25 cents, discount for quantities

Letters from Mexico

Mr. Hunter has collected some of the most significant recent letters from our missionaries in Mexico for wider use. Valuable in the worship services of a circle or in a midweek meeting.

(10 cents)

Why Not Visit Mexico?

A little flyer for those already planning a tour, indicating where they will find our work in that land. (Free)

For Latin America Year, 1951-52

A one-page mimeographed sheet containing directions for ordering most of the materials listed here and one or two others.

(Free)

Visual Aids on Our Work
Some New, Some Old

Made in U.S.A.

Interdenominational sound filmstrip featuring scope of cooperative work in home missions among migrants, Indians, sharecroppers, tenant farmers (15 minutes). Price—$2.50

Rebirth in Roxbury

Sound filmstrip on interracial church. (Approximately 20 minutes). Ready in fall. Free to Congregational Christian Churches.

Beyond City Limits

Sound filmstrip on state of rural church in U.S. (Approximately 20 minutes). Price—$2.50

New documentary color film of **Protestant work in Mexico.** Ready in the fall. Title: "Crossroads in Mexico." Price $5.00

New sound filmstrip on **Our work in Mexico.** Ready in late summer. Free to Congregational Christian Churches.

The Church Is There

Sound filmstrip presenting local and worldwide work of the Church. Pertinent to Our Christian World Mission (15 minutes). Free to Congregational Christian Churches.

New Pictures—Large

11 x 14 black and white photographs representative of mission work in Mexico, mounted on 16 x 20 inch cardboard. Suitable for display in churches. For loan, and user pays 50 cents plus transportation charges. Ready June 1.

Pictures—Small

4 x 6 prints of persons and places of our Mexico Mission. Available for *loan,* free; for *sale,* 35 cents per picture. Ready June 1.

Place Mats

New Churches—Table mat

Symbolic red and white mat which may be used in connection with *Mission to America.* These may be ordered in quantity for a women's luncheon or church night dinner. (1 cent each)

Our Ministries in Mexico

Attractively decorated with map showing the locations of our work, in green and white. (Two for 3 cents)

Supplementary Material—See Next Issue

There will be excellent maps in color and in outline, splendid picture maps to be worked out by the Junior Highs, and recreation suggestions in the Fun and Festival Series. These we will list in a later issue.

BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

In a later number of ENVELOPE SERIES we hope to present the longer reviews of the books available for children, with comments to relate them to our children's work and curriculum. In this current issue we can do little more than list them by grades. See *Children's Religion* for October, 1951, and January, 1952, for more material for children's leaders on the themes.

For Junior Highs

The Third Wish, by Eleanor Hull (see page 16)

Our Church—A Fellowship, by Sara Little

A guide to make *The Third Wish* come alive for junior high boys and girls. Detailed plans for sessions. Paper only—60 cents

The Traded Twins, by Robert N. McLean; illustrated by Rafael Palacios

A mystery story!

This book was first published in 1942 and proved so popular that for this new generation of boys and girls we have revised it with a new illustrator's excellent work, in the same format as *Tumbleweed Boy.* Suspense and excitement against a rich Mexico background will make this a fine book for reading or group programs on Mexico.

Price—cloth, $2.00; paper, $1.25

More About Mexico, by Lawrence L. Stanton

A program guide for leaders of junior high groups, based on *The Traded Twins.* Larry and Connie Stanton are our own American Board missionaries in Mexico. Excellent recreation and handcraft and session plans for five good sessions with the Junior High group on Mexico. Paper only—60 cents

For Grades 4, 5 and 6

Hungry Hollow, by Anna Rose Wright

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THE DOCTOR AND THE SHEIKH

By GERTRUDE WARNER

A Play in Three Scenes

Based on the Life of Dr. Paul Harrison of Arabia

Foreword from the Editor:

Miss Gertrude Warner has written many plays and pageants for us in years gone by. Recently, on reading the stories *Desert Doctor* and *Pearls Are Made,** part of this year's Mission Study material on the Near East, she was, herself, fascinated, and when the women of her church asked her to write a play for their meeting she wrote the following clever drama. It was produced in the Putnam Church on March 6 and received a real ovation.

To be sure, Miss Warner has telescoped events in the Doctor's life, and taken dramatic liberties by fictionizing some of the episodes, but it is actually true to the spirit of the famous Paul Harrison and to the spirit of the Missionary Doctor in any land.

Turkey, the field where we are supporting medical work today, is not so primitive as the Sheikh's country and the conditions of medicine not so primitive either; nevertheless, we believe that the picture is the same, the problem of work in a Moslem field typical, and that our people will enjoy this play.

Cast

Dr. Paul Harrison, medical missionary.

His wife. (Two different women may play this part, a young one in the first scene, a lovely but mature 50 for the last.)

Sheikh Ali, of Oman, Abdullah, his servant, Ferida, his wife.

Scenes

1st and 3d, in doctor's dispensary in Muscat, Arabia.

* *Desert Doctor,* by Constance Hallock, price 15 cents. A biography in the Eagle Book Series. *Pearls Are Made,* by Ann Harrison, price $1.00. A story for Junior High Young People.

2d. Interior of Sheikh's home in neighboring province of Oman.

1st and 2d scenes 1916, 3d scene 1948.

Costumes

Doctor. White coat in 1st and 3d scenes. Light panama colored suit, 2d.

Wife. White uniform, plus white sweater for a change.

Sheikh and servant. Long, loose garment (aba) under which is a long, tunic-like dress with wide sash or girdle. Both have short daggers in belt. Bright-colored striped scarfs over heads bound with two heavy black rope-like cords. Sheikh very gorgeous, with many rings on fingers.

Sheikh's wife. Long belted or girdled tunic. Brilliant colors. Floating scarf on head. Long strings of jewels.

Properties: Dispensary scene very simple, if necessary only a background of movable screens, on which are pinned two false windows and picture of Christ healing the Sick. In right foreground, table and chair for doctor. A chair opposite for wife. On table are fly slapper, book, paperknife, Bible, light that will light. Doctor's bag on floor, containing dental forceps rolled in towel, gauze squares with red ink already inside for blood, two teeth, hypo, small bottle of pills. Same for last scene.

Middle scene: Background of screens hung with brilliantly colored shawls or rugs. At back of stage a long mattress covered with India print. Many pillows piled high. Floor covered with rugs. Two large hassocks or stuffed cushions on either side of front for Sheikh and doctor to sit on. Left rear, small table with a tall samovar or coffee-urn on it. Small brass cup of sugar. Properties to be used backstage (or brought in): Record player, muezzin record,* two demi-tasse cups, brass kettle, boil-

* "Moslem Call to Prayer Record," Col. E3383, 44511. Very old. No longer for sale, but some collectors have it. Or in some communities there may be someone who would be willing to (and can) give it. Or you may simulate it in English, in chant-like style.

ing hot coffee, piano or organ, 2 prayer rugs, bag of pearls for Sheikh's belt, bunch of unopened letters. Fly on doctor's white coat may be a snip of black yarn.

Scene 1

Dispensary in Muscat, Arabia

Doctor. Jeh-mel, *jeh*-mel, *jeh*-mel. *(Enter wife.)*

Mrs. H. Oh, Paul, you shouldn't study so late. It's past five. You'll wear yourself out.

Doctor. Oh, no, I won't my dear. We knew Arabic was a hard language before we ever started. Look, there are 300 words for horse! And look at that list for camel. I'm going to learn only one—Jeh-mel. Then they will know what I am talking about at least.

Mrs. H. Well we can't say we weren't warned, Paul. *(Sits down opposite.)* Remember Dr. Zwemer told you this was the hardest mission field he knew? Just read over that list—just to encourage us.

Doctor. (Reads from paper) I pasted it in the back of my dictionary. Here it is. "Go to Muscat, Paul, because:

1. The climate is almost unbearable. It will be 120 degrees at midnight.
2. Arabic is the hardest language I know.
3. You cannot expect any converts to Christianity in your lifetime. The Arab is a Moslem, and his heart is like iron where his religion is concerned.
4. The Mission Board has very little money for Arabia and—*(Both together with a rhythm, as if they had said it before, laughing)* You will *have* to *live* on *al*most *noth*ing."

Mrs. H. And yet we came, didn't we? The best thing I do is kill flies. Look out, Paul. Right on your shoulder. Do you mind? *(Kills fly with slapper.)*

Doctor. (Brushing it off) Poor fly. It is the will of Allah. *In*shallah, *in*shallah! I get so tired of hearing that everything bad

is the will of Allah . . . every horrible smell and disease. Of course it isn't the will of God. Every fly should be killed.

Mrs. H. You'll have to go slow, Paul. One thing! We can't be thankful enough that the Sheikh of Oman can speak English. We may possibly win him over if we don't hurry him.

Doctor. Are you a soothsayer? Look out the window. Speak of angels and they appear. It is the Sheikh himself coming here!

Mrs. H. (looking out window) His favorite slave boy is with him. I hope there's no trouble. *(Sheikh and Abdullah enter.)*

Sheikh (roaring, apparently in pain, holding cheek) You AMERICAN DOCTOR? Can you pull tooth?

Doctor. Yes, Sheikh Ali, I believe I can.

Sheikh (pointing dramatically to servant) Pull some tooth from my slave. I watch you. If I like the way you pull—I will have you pull mine.

Doctor. (hesitates) But—well, sit down in this chair, Abdullah. It is just possible that he has a rotten tooth that really needs pulling. Let me see. Yes, this one is the worst. *(Abdullah's eyes rove wildly, and he moans slightly)* It will hurt you for a minute, Abdullah. You know that?

Abdullah. Inshallah, inshallah! It is the will of Allah that I suffer.

(Doctor's Wife holds light so that it shines in his face, sheikh stands with brandished dagger, and doctor pulls tooth. This takes some time, and the doctor can ad lib, saying "Open your mouth," etc.)

Sheikh. (looking at tooth) Tayyib, tayyib! Good. Now you can pull mine. *(Takes chair. Mrs. H. gives servant gauze square with blood already on inside.)*

Doctor. (looking in mouth while wife holds light) My, you will feel better when I get this fellow out. Thank goodness it will come easy. It's as rotten as the ice in the Arabian Sea. Oops! There he is, Sheikh Ali. Your enemy. *(Shows large tooth to Sheikh who grunts and smiles. Mrs. H. gives him gauze.*

Sheikh. (holding face, nods and bows) I come again. Come five times. Bring my four brothers. Bring my father. You pull *all* his teeth.

Doctor. Come any time. That's what I'm here for. *(As they start to go out, Abdullah looks at picture.)*

Abdullah. Who is that man?

Doctor. That is Jesus Christ healing the sick.

Abdullah. He looks kind. He has a kind face. You believe he is the prophet of God?

Doctor. We believe he is the Son of God.

(Call-to-prayer heard outside. Gong strikes. Abdullah unrolls both prayer rugs, and gives one to the Sheikh. Both prostrate themselves. They chant together in English.)

Chant. Allah is great, Allah is great.
There is no god but Allah.
I say that Mohammed is his prophet.
Come to prayer, come to prayer.
Prayer is better than sleep, prayer is better than sleep.
There is no god but Allah.

(Doctor and wife both bow heads during this. At this point, muezzin should be softened.)

Doctor. (praying) Father I thank thee that I have found this friend in Arabia. Let me take a lesson from this man who is not ashamed to pray aloud five times a day, wherever he is.

Curtain, while muezzin continues outside. Sheikh and servant continue to raise and lower themselves until curtains are closed.

Scene 2

Interior of Sheikh's home in Oman

(Sheikh enters . . . walks up and down with hands clasped.)

Sheikh. Oh this terrible cholera! The terrible cholera. What shall I do? Ah, I know. I will send for the American doctor! *(Claps hands. Abdullah enters.)*

Sheikh. Abdullah, go to Muscat at once and get that American Doctor.

Abdullah. Yes, master. May I take your racing camel?

Sheikh. My racing camel? You scoundrel! Take your own father's racing camel. But yes, maybe speed is necessary, the way the cholera is spreading. Take mine.

Abdullah. But what shall I say to the young doctor to make him come with me?

Sheikh. Take these. *(Pulls string of long pearls from girdle)* But no . . . he won't take them. He won't take pay. He will come without pay. Just tell him I must talk with him about the terrible cholera in Oman.

Abdullah. I will tell him. But let me take the beads just the same. One can never tell what may come up.

Sheikh. You are a sly dog, Abdullah. But yes, take them and go.

Abdullah. I shall fly like a bird on your white racing camel. *(Gestures as if flying)* You will not miss me before I return with the young doctor. *(Falsetto)* Loo-loo-loo-loo- *Exit.*

Sheikh claps hands and Ferida enters. She is beautifully dressed.

Ferida. You called me, Sire?

Sheikh. I did. The American is coming. He will talk with me about the cholera in this city. We shall serve him coffee in our best style.

Ferida. Yes, Sire, I will set out the cups. *Exit.*

(Ferida gets small kettle of real boiling coffee and brings it in and pours it into the samovar. Pours in the brass cup of sugar from a height. Meanwhile Sheikh sits down crosslegged on cushion at left front of stage.)

Sheikh. (to himself) My people are dying of cholera. They are dropping like flies. But the doctor will know what to do. He can pull teeth. He can cure cholera. Have I not seen him take a lump the size of an orange from the top of a man's head? He is kind. Yes, he will come.

Ferida. (repeats as she arranges cushions) Yes, he will come . . . he will come.

(Noise outside of Abdullah yelling to camel. Queer snuffling noises from camel.)

Abdullah. Lie down, dog of a beast. Lie down . . . down, down. And let the master dismount.

Enter doctor with bag.

Doctor. How do you do Sheikh Ali.

Sheikh. Ah, you have come. I said you would. Sit down with honor and take coffee. How did you get here so quickly?

Doctor. Thank you. I was already in the city. I heard that Oman is suffering from cholera.

Sheikh. Ah, you heard that in Muscat?

Doctor. Bad news travels fast. *(Both sit down on front cushions, and Ferida serves them coffee. They drink slowly.)*

Sheikh. It has just started, but already 20 have died. There are funeral processions all the time.

Doctor. Yes, I met several as I came in, and Abdullah picked me up. It seems that the cholera is in the north end of the city.

Sheikh. Yes, *now* it is in the north end. But it will spread. I asked you to come for this reason. Every house will be sick. . . . You will see. Every house. *(motions like dominoes falling)* da-da-da-da. . . . You shall cure them all.

Doctor. I can't do that, Sheikh Ali. I can tell them what to do, but your people will not pay any attention to me.

Sheikh. (drawing dagger and flourishing it) Oh, yes they will! When I tell my people to obey you, they will obey—or be shot, or hanged.

(Ferida suddenly begins to moan and stagger toward couch in great pain. Doctor springs up and helps her to couch.)

Ferida. Oh, I have the cholera. I shall die. Cure me, doctor, cure me! *(She writhes and moans loudly.)* Inshallah, inshallah!

Doctor. (kneeling beside her) It *is* the cholera, Sheikh Ali. I brought medicine in case you wanted it. Do you want me to quiet her?

Sheikh. (with folded arms) Certainly. She is suffering. If you can, give her sleep. *(Doctor gives hypo, and still holds pulse. Ferida gradually quiets.)*

Sheikh. You see. You can cure cholera. Tell me what to do and I will see that my people obey you.

Doctor. Well, if you really mean that, I can stop the spread of cholera in 2 days. Many already sick may die, but no new cases will develop.

Sheikh. Tell me. Tell me what to do.

Doctor. Three things. Only three, but they must do them *all.*

Sheikh. Three things? They will do three thousand things if I say so.

Doctor. All right. *(counts on fingers)* Boil all water. Eat nothing raw. Keep flies off food. That's all.

Sheikh. It is done! *(Claps hands and Abdullah enters.)* Abdullah, tell the soldiers to go to every house. Say to the people, drink one drop of water not boiled and you shall be shot dead. Let one fly come to your rice—one fly, remember, and you shall be hanged. Eat one mouthful of food not cooked, and you shall be—*(makes motion with dagger.)* Say it!

Abdullah. (repeats word for word with same gestures.) Drink one drop of water not boiled and you shall be shot dead. Let one fly come to your rice—one fly, remember—and you shall be hanged. Eat one mouthful of food not cooked, and you shall be—*(motion of dagger toward heart. This should be comic relief.)*

Sheikh. Good. Then tell the soldiers to march up and down *(does so),* up and down, and keep watch everywhere, and shoot at once. One drop! One fly! Shoot!

Abdullah. (Marches up and down.) One drop, one fly, shoot . . . *(does so with imaginary gun.) Exit.*

Doctor. Good. Kill every fly and boil water and cook the food, and you will not have cholera again in Oman.

Sheikh. Inshallah, inshallah.

Doctor. (shakes head) No, Sheikh Ali, cholera is not the will of God. Flies carry cholera. You will see for yourself that the cholera will stop now. It is the will of God that men should be well and strong. I will leave these tablets for your wife. Give her one every half hour.

(Muezzin is heard outside. Ferida tries to get up and kneel, saying God is great . . . but collapses again on pillows. Sheikh unrolls his own rug, and kneels.)

Doctor. Next time your wife will be able to obey the call to prayer. *(Bows head and joins in prayer with the Sheikh. . . .)*

Curtain, while muezzin continues as in Scene 1.

Scene 3

Doctor's dispensary 32 years later. Doctor is seated at table. His wife enters with hands full of letters. She is excited.

Mrs. H. The mail, Paul! Look. Ten letters from America. And one is from Tim. Open that one first.

Doctor. Oh, good. *(Opens letter with paperknife, and reads. This can be printed inside, so he will not have to learn it.)* Dear Mother and Dad, I got your letter about your travels into the regions upcountry on your racing camels. You are so full of zing! Of course I've been thinking a lot about coming over as a missionary too, to help you. I went so far as to inquire of the Mission Board, and they said the budget wouldn't stretch to include another missionary such as I. Too bad. Something is wrong, surely. If a strong young man wants to come, and a lovely wife like Helen is more than willing, it seems strange that others will not finance it. The whole trouble is, we in America think the important thing is to be comfortable and to provide luxuries for our families. But then what have we got? Luxuries for our families. I may go on a speaking tour and give the churches a shot in the arm. Lots of love, Tim.

Mrs. H. Let me take it, Paul. *(As she takes it, she sees the next letter.)* Oh, look, Paul. From Henry Whitmore. Open that.

Doctor. (reads) Dear Paul, Why don't you and your wife come home? You have buried yourself in Arabia. I've read your records about spinal anesthesia, and you could have an experimental laboratory here. You're only 60, and if service to humanity is what you want, the United States is full of needy people. You're wasting your great abilities on Moslems. Let me hear from you. Henry Whitmore.

Doctor. (laughing) You're too late Friend! My experimental lab. is that space under the palm trees. It's plenty big enough for me, and certainly there will be a hospital here very soon. Plans all drawn sent to America for approval, head nurse all engaged *(smiles and bows to wife)* not to mention 30 boys all trained to ward duty and 15 trained nurses—all Moslems you speak of so slightingly. *(Opens next letter.)*

Mrs. H. I wish Henry could compare the spotless operating rooms in Johns Hopkins with the places you have operated, surrounded by dust, dirt, germs, people, dogs, camels—Why, Paul, what's the matter?

Doctor. (staring into space, and still holding letter) We have to go home, Ann.

Mrs. H. Go home? Oh, *no!* Why?

Doctor. They've cut the budget.

Mrs. H. Cut the budget? Who has?

Doctor. The Mission Board.

Mrs. H. But *why?*

Doctor. I don't know why. I suppose contributions didn't come in. But we can't blame them too much, Ann. They don't understand—the people who underwrite us. We're so far away.

Mrs. H. (echoes) Yes, we're so far away. You mean we can't have the hospital? Do we have to go home right *now?*

Doctor. Well, we don't have to go *home*. But we won't have anything to live on after this.

Mrs. H. (in low tone, looking through window) Paul, the *Sheikh* is coming. How shall we ever break the awful news to him?

Sheikh and servant enter.

Sheikh. (smiling about) Why so sad?

Doctor. We have to go home.

Sheikh. Go home? Why? You must not go home!

Doctor. I have had a letter from America. There is no more money.

Abdullah. No money in *America?*

Doctor. Well, yes, Abdullah, there is plenty of money in America, but they don't want to spend it on me.

Sheikh. Too bad, too bad. They don't understand over there. They live too far away.

Abdullah. (echoes) Too far away . . . they are foreigners *(contemptuously)*. What about the new hospital? I am trained to care for the sick.

Doctor. (patting arm) Yes, you're a good nurse, Abdullah. But I guess there will be no hospital.

Sheikh. (roaring) WHAT YOU SAY? NO HOSPITAL? What you say?

Doctor. But it takes money, Sheikh Ali, to build a hospital. They will not send the money. How can we have one?

Sheikh. (majestically) America has no money? Ahhhhhh! But *I* have! *I* will build this hospital. I will put all the men of Oman to work instantly.

Mrs. H. (softly) Oh, Paul!

Doctor. Think, Sheikh Ali. They will all be Moslems. Will they build a Christian hospital for a Christian doctor?

Sheikh. Yes! They shall build it or I shall *(for the moment he forgets and reaches for his dagger but thinks better of it)*— Well, anyway, they will build it for Sheikh Ali and Dr. Harrison, the Christian.

Abdullah. Do they forget the cholera? Do they forget the teeth? Do they forget the lump on the man's head the size of

an orange? Do they forget the blind babies and the doctor who gives them eyes? No, they do not forget. They will build it for the Christian doctor.

Sheikh. They will. If we have the hospital in Oman, will you come from Muscat and take care of my people?

Doctor. Will I? You know I will.

Sheikh. Tayyib, tayyib. Good! Make the plans and I will build the hospital. I came to give you this one *(turns to Ann and hands her the long rope of pearls, then empties bag of pearls on table.)* But *now,* take them *all* for the hospital!

Abdullah. With those, one could buy the city of Baghdad!

Doctor. You're a good man, Sheikh Ali. God will reward you. He has already rewarded you.

Sheikh. (looking at picture) He was a good man, too. Read my piece again, the one that sounds like the Koran.

Doctor. Luke is getting to be your favorite book, Sheikh Ali. "And a great multitude came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all."

Sheikh. That is a good word. As good as the Koran. If all Christians were like you, I might even—

Doctor. We'll work together, my friend, for your beautiful jewels will let us stay.

Abdullah. And I can help care for the sick?

Doctor. Yes, Abdullah. God certainly moves in a mysterious way.

(Mrs. H. lets pearls drop lovingly through her fingers as muezzin is heard at a great distance, but piano or small organ plays nearby, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way," as everyone bows head and curtains close.)

END